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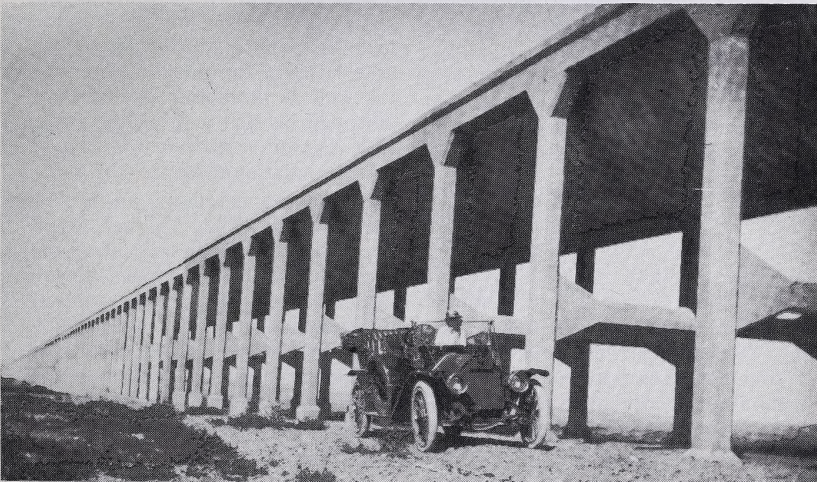
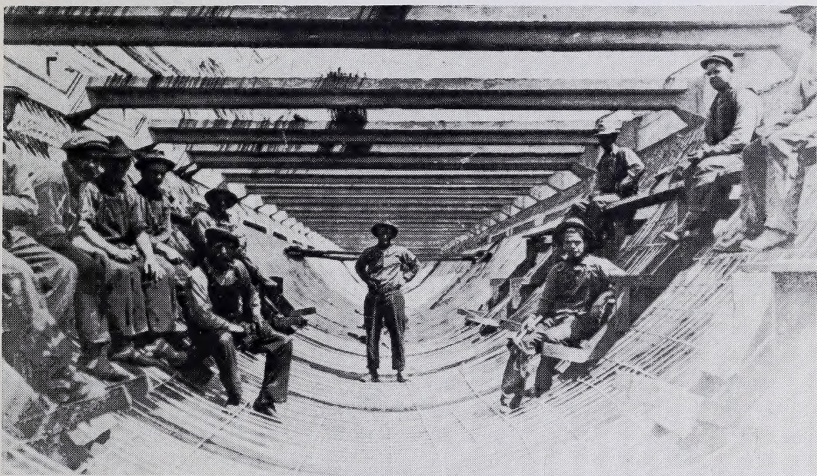


The

[fall 1985]

CORNERSTONE

Journal of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation





The home of Kenneth and Marjorie Renwick. They received a heritage award for their careful restoration work on their home. (photo: Robin Schlat)

Medicine Hat honors commitment to preserving city's heritage

The Medicine Hat Museum and Art Gallery held their annual presentation of Heritage Awards on Sunday, June 16.

This year's Heritage Residential Award went to Kenneth and Marjorie Renwick of 69 1st Street N.W. for the restoration work they completed on their home. The Renwicks showed great sensitivity and care in preserving the original features of their residence.

The Heritage Commercial Award was not awarded this year, however, the Museum gave Honourable Mention to Gainsboro Studio for the restoration work it had completed to date.

The Heritage Merit Award is given to a person who has made a deep and continuous commitment to the preservation and promotion of Medicine

Hat's heritage. This year's recipient was James Marshall. "Jim" as he is known to his friends, has played a major role in preserving Medicine Hat's heritage. He is active in the local Historical Society, the Museum and Art Gallery, the Medalta project, the Historic Resources Committee as well as promoting our heritage through his pen and ink drawings. His reputation reaches well beyond the boundaries of Medicine Hat.

The award ceremony was held at the historic James Mitchell ranch house east of Medicine Hat on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River. Over 175 people enjoyed "Brunch on the Prairie" followed by musical entertainment, a comedy routine and lastly the presentation of Awards. A Western Art Show complemented the program.

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Cornerstone: A stone forming a part of a corner or angle in a wall; specifically such a stone laid at a formal ceremony or; the most basic element; the foundation of.

The Foundation

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation was established in 1976 to provide the means to assist in the preservation and recording of the Province's historic buildings, sites and objects and to encourage and promote public awareness of Alberta's past.

The Foundation is a Provincial Crown Agency, able to involve Albertans directly with its programmes and projects. Donations and bequests of funds or property receive the tax benefit of a donation to the Crown.

Membership is only \$5.00 a year. It entitles a supporter to receive the Foundation's magazine which includes notices of forthcoming exhibitions and events at the Foundation's office and gallery, and heritage activities throughout the Province.

Albertans are invited to contact the Foundation's office with their enquiries, news and information of subjects and events which they want to share through the pages of the magazine.

Please direct all enquires to:
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
102 - 8th Avenue S.E., Calgary,
Alberta T2G 0K6
Telephone (403) 297-7320

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Editor

Margaret Archibald, APR, of Public Relations Plus (Calgary) Ltd., is editing The Cornerstone on a consulting basis.

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The CORNERSTONE

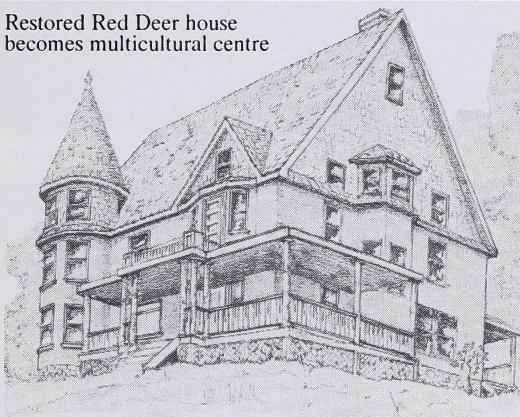
Journal of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

Cover photos:

Top: Workgang resting in the bowl of the Brooks Aqueduct.

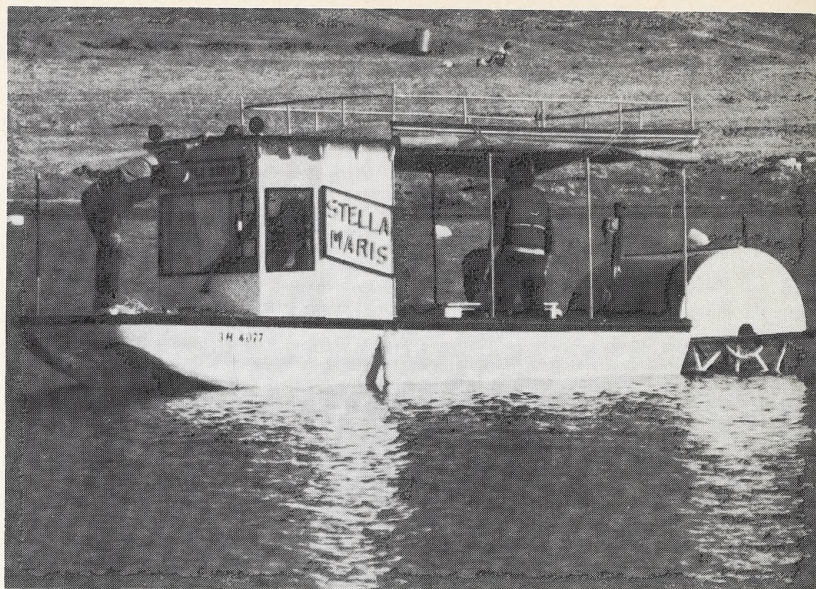
Bottom: The historic Brooks Aqueduct was an integral feature of the irrigation system constructed in 1910 - 1914 by the Canadian Pacific Railway. 1985 marks the 50th anniversary of the transfer of the irrigation system from the railway company to the district farmers. Story on page 9.

Restored Red Deer house becomes multicultural centre

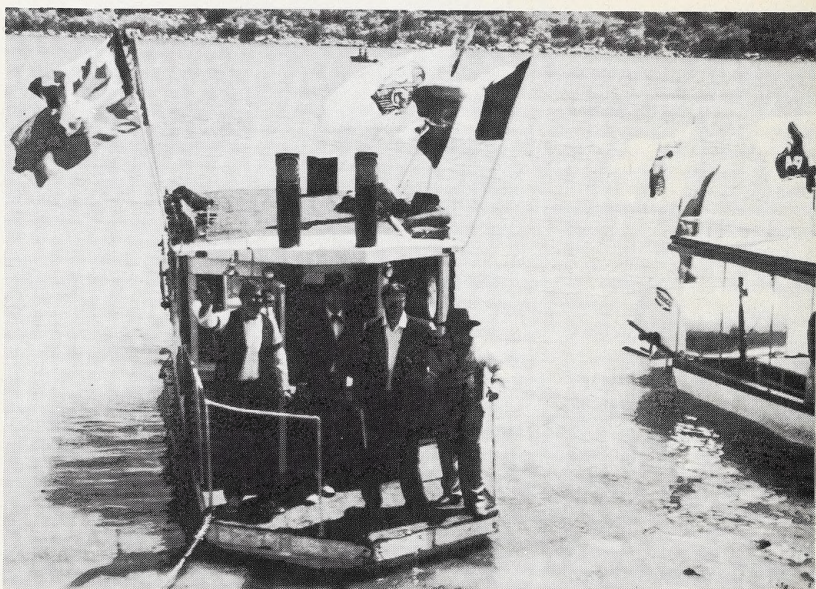


On Heritage Day, August 5, 1985, the Honourable Mary LeMessurier officiated at the opening of the restored Cronquist House in Red Deer, as the province's fourth multicultural centre. Built in 1912 by Swedish settler Emmanuel (Peterson) Cronquist, the stately three-storey brick house will be the home of the Folk Festival Society and community ethnic groups and will contain an ethnic resource library and displays. Moved from its original site overlooking the Red Deer River in West Park on March 27, 1979, the building was towed across the river to its present location at Bower Pond. Restoration and associated costs totalled approximately \$140,000.

Sketch by David Plumtree



The Stella Maris enjoying a warm day on Diefenbaker Lake.



Riel Days in Saskatoon: everyone was in the spirit.

Sternwheelers re-enact a historic journey

Numerous activities throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan this year are marking the centennial of the Northwest Rebellion. One such activity was coordinated by Lethbridge's Galt Sternwheelers Association with project funding from the Foundation.

Sternwheelers had been used for several years to transport coal between Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, but during the rebellion they were pressed into service to transport men and arms to Batoche. The Galt Sternwheelers Association relived that historical journey this summer.

Three sternwheelers left Lethbridge late in June for what promised to be an eventful trip.

Conditions were difficult. Low water levels forced the crews to push their boats through much of the first leg. It took two days to travel the 50-mile stretch between Burdett and Medicine Hat, and already two of the sternwheelers were badly damaged. One sternwheeler had to return home for extensive repairs.

The other two boats managed to carry on, working their way to Eston and Saskatchewan Landing where strong winds carried the Katherine Stout offshore and blew her ashore. The crew was picked up and driven to Elbow, where they were met by a third sternwheeler. The next day they back-tracked

200 miles to retrieve the Katherine Stout.

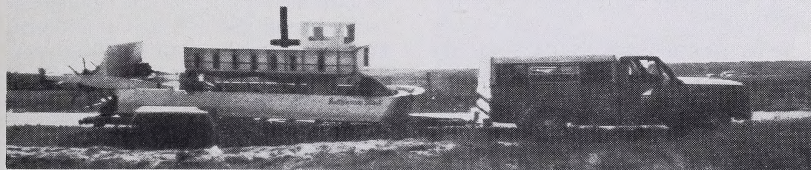
The rest of the trip to Saskatoon was uneventful, although low waters continued to be a problem.

By July 7th, the three sternwheelers, the Katherine Stout, the Rubie Queen, and the Stella Maris arrived in Saskatoon to participate in Riel Days. During a special ceremony, they presented a plaque to the Mayor of Saskatoon from the Mayor of Lethbridge, and explained to on-lookers the historical significance of the trip they had re-enacted.

On July 19, the three sternwheelers completed the last leg of the journey to Batoche without incident. Once in Batoche, the crews enjoyed the festivities: jigging, square dancing, and fiddling contests. Again they had the opportunity to explain their journey.

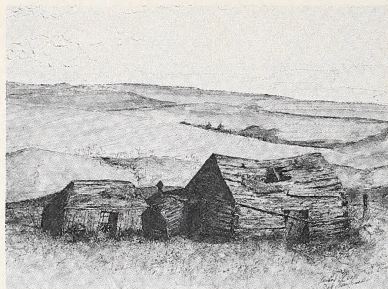
As they look back now, they find that even more memorable than the problems they experienced, were the people they met and the warm reception they enjoyed from all the farm communities along the way.

"After days of frustration, mayhem, tranquility, serenity, hard work, enjoyment, laughs, shaking hands, promoting, explaining, conversation, cruising and hot dry weather, we survived and completed what we set out to do."



Rescuing the Katherine Stout meant a 200-mile backtrack.

Gallery Exhibit Oct. - Nov.



A show of watercolors and pen-and-ink drawings by Stony Plain artist Laslo Pal will be on display at the Foundation's



gallery during October and November. The show is called "Heritage Kaleidoscope."



Foundation Update

A recent article in the *Globe and Mail* explored the decision of a Toronto-based investment company to renovate three of downtown Calgary's 1958 buildings.

Being only 27 years old, no one could call the buildings historical monuments, but at the same time, most buildings never last half as long in what the reporter called "Calgary's tradition of wrecking and rebuilding." Certainly, the Old Dome building, the Britannia building and the Atrium could be considered "dated," and now is the time to ensure that they last long enough to become historically significant.

Your comments are welcome on what could be a positive turnaround for Calgary's development companies. Write to the Editor; The Cornerstone; c/o The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation; 102-8th Ave. S.E.; Calgary, Alberta; T2G 0K6.

Computers help share history

With the installation of a computer at Foundation Headquarters we are able to computerize our membership lists. "Bugs" do occur in switch-overs such as this, so please contact the staff about any irregularities in your Foundation mail service.

Do inform us of your change of address. Members whose mail is returned and for whom we have no forwarding address will be deleted from our membership list.

Goodbye to summer staff

Foundation staff have been pleased to have the services for the summer of two talented and efficient gentlemen, Oscar Bonaventura and Zahid Saleem. Oscar was very busy cataloguing library materials and setting up a clipping file while Zahid was involved in setting up our computer programmes. We have enjoyed their presence and wish them well in their new pursuits.



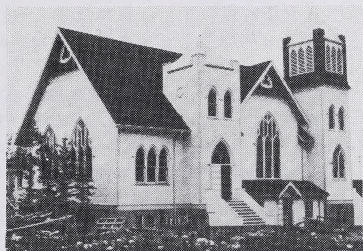
Athabasca United Church refurbished, 1985.

Athabasca United Church restoration

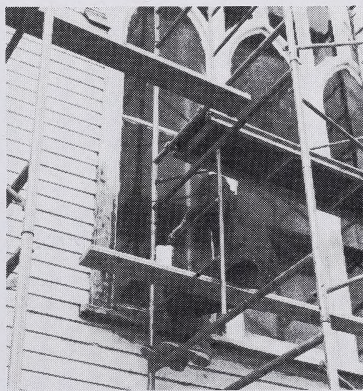
With grant assistance from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, Athabasca United Church is presently undergoing major restoration and renovation.

Built in 1912, it is believed to be the oldest frame building still in daily use in northern Alberta. The church is closely associated with the northern extension of the Methodist Church and development of Athabasca as a northern centre prior to World War I. In comparison to those in similar Alberta urban centres of that period, the size and architectural style of the building is impressive.

The architect was Ernest W. Morehouse from Edmonton, who was associated with the development of the Highlands district. Other buildings designed by him include Highlands Methodist Church.



Under construction in 1912.



Restoration work underway.

“Best in the West”

This year of drought in Alberta marks the 50th anniversary of the Eastern Irrigation District. For the farmers who live there the anniversary is worth recognition. It means that for the past 50 years they have benefited from one of the most sophisticated irrigation systems in the world.



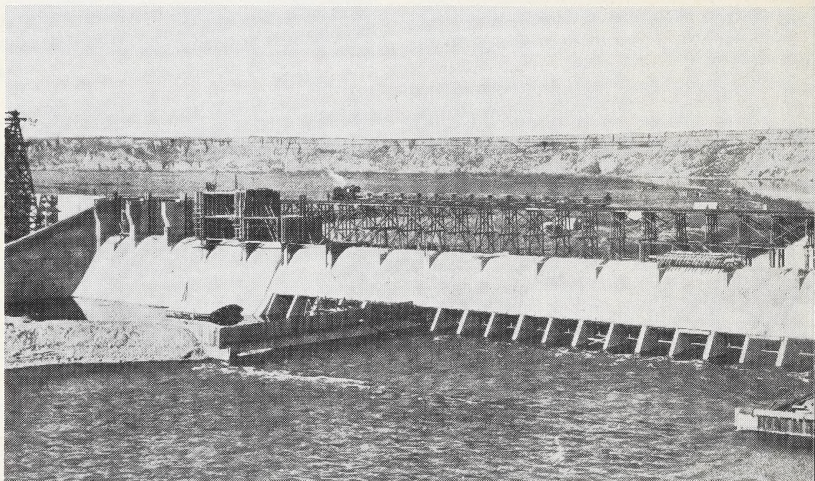
“Best in the West by a Damsite” was the slogan of the village of Bassano in 1911. In 1985 the slogan could be applied to the entire Eastern Irrigation District,

because the EID’s system of dams and waterways has been the basis of the area’s prosperity.

The people of the EID are looking back at the history of their irrigation system with pride. Its development is marked with struggle after struggle as their forefathers realized their dream.

If we could talk to any of the first settlers in the area today, they would describe barren land producing only clumps of sagebrush, cactus and wild rose. No water ran through the area. No one could have ever guessed what agricultural possibilities it had.

The land was then owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway. It had been received from the Dominion of Canada as final payment for building Canada’s first transcontinental railway. By 1910 settlers were quickly flocking to the area, full of confidence and high hopes as



The Bassano Dam’s progress to 1911. Note how

By a Damsite"

they began work on a water delivery system.

By 1914, water was flowing through an effective irrigation system, only to have progress halted by a world war and an unmatched agricultural recession.

Hopes plummeted as did the farmers' profits. Unable to keep up their land contract payments to the CPR, desperation drove many settlers away. However, a small nucleus survived. In search of a solution to their situation, they approached the CPR.

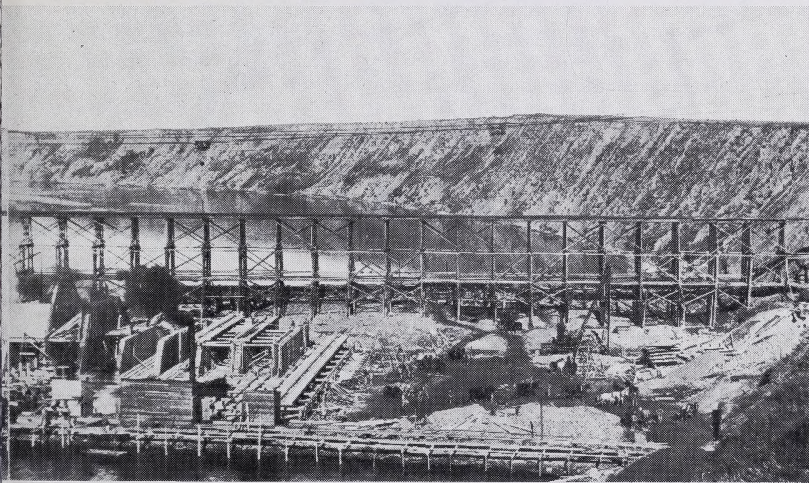
By then, the CPR was suffering heavy losses on the project and was very relieved when the farmers agreed to take responsibility for their own water delivery system in return for the existing irrigation works, existing land contracts, and the unsold land of the project. This together with \$300,000 was turned over to the

farmers' organization, and on May 1, 1935 the Eastern Irrigation District came into being.

The following years brought stability and other settlers to the area. As the irrigation system was being completed, political struggles and other problems arose. But the people's resolution and belief in the worth of a fully-developed irrigation system kept them working. Eventually they completed the entire system they had dreamed of years before.

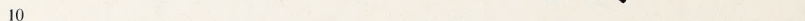
Since then, financial assistance from supportive federal and provincial governments has kept the system in good repair. Indeed, its sophisticated technology is unsurpassed anywhere in the world today.

As the people of the EID look back with pride, they look forward with responsibility. They realize their position as one of the most productive agricultural



struction is phased to allow continual river flow.

See the "Books" section on page 11 in this issue of the Cornerstone for infor-



Restored Church Featured at Foundation Gallery

The history of the Ralph Connor Memorial United Church is being recounted through photographs at the Foundation Gallery. The display continues during the fall months.

Built in 1890, the Canmore church was later named after its first minister, novelist Ralph Connor, and declared a historical site. A number of his books will also be displayed at the Gallery.

See page 12 in this issue of The Cornerstone for a more complete story of the Ralph Connor Memorial United Church.

Search For Books

The Ralph Connor Memorial United Church is looking for the following books to complete its library collection: Gwen's Canyon (30 pages, scarce); Ould Michael; Breaking the Record (31 pages, scarce); The Swan Creek Blizzard (29 pages, scarce); The Pilot at Swan Creek and Other Stories; The Dawn by Galilee (scarce); Christian Hope (31 pages, very scarce); The Friendly Four and Other Stories (scarce); A Fight For Freedom (13 pages, rare).

If anyone has a book to contribute, please contact Mrs. Mary M. Smith, Co-ordinator of the Historical Committee; Box 546, Canmore, Alberta; T0L 0M0.

An Invitation...

The editor of The Cornerstone invites you to send us your favorite old-Alberta photos to share with our readers. The photo can include people, buildings, special events...anything. Send in complete with a caption and they will be used in The Cornerstone as space permits. The photo will be returned to you.

Start digging through your attic soon.

Historical Resources intern programme

The Historical Resources Intern Programme, run by the University of Calgary and Alberta Culture, will be offering another series of short courses related to historic resource management. The courses will be offered primarily in Edmonton, from October 1985 to May 1986, and are from one to five days long.

Tom Schlereth (University of Notre Dame) will be back to teach *Material Culture* and *Urban History and Urban Museums*. Martin Weaver (Heritage Canada) will be teaching *Building With Wood and Its Conservation; 19th and Early 20th Century Painting and Graining; and Floor and Wall Coverings*. *Collections Management* will be taught by Emilie Tari (Old World Wisconsin). Maxi Ferro (Preservation Partnership) will be back, teaching *Principles of Rehabilitation*. Other courses include *Docentry, Managing Museum Shops and Cultural Resource Management*.

For more information, please contact:

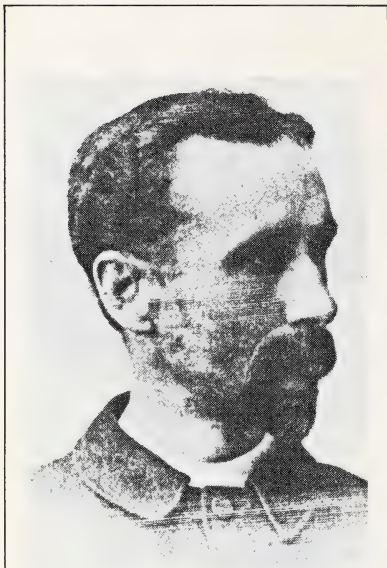
Dr. Walter Jamieson,
Historical Resources Intern Programme,
Faculty of Environmental Design,
University of Calgary,
Calgary, Alberta
T2N 1N4 220-7426

"Tapping the Bow"

In commemoration of its 50th anniversary, the Eastern Irrigation District published "Tapping the Bow." History comes to life in this fascinating book recounting the struggle to bring water to dry land. Authors: Renie Gross and Lea Nicoll Kramer. This 240-page hard-cover book costs \$19.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. Contact the Eastern Irrigation District; P.O. Box 8; Brooks, Alberta; T0J 0J0.

Refurbished Canmore Church

Built in 1890, the historic Ralph Connor Memorial United Church takes its name from its founder and first minister, Charles W. Gordon. Dr. Gordon was a Presbyterian minister assigned to cover the territory around Banff. When he arrived, Canmore, a burgeoning railway divisional point and coal mining centre,



*Canmore's first minister, Charles W. Gordon, who wrote under the pen name of Ralph Connor.
(photo: Harold Climo, 1895, New Brunswick).*

was without any church. When he departed three years later, the Canmore Presbyterian Church had been established and the present worship centre built.

It was a few years later, while Dr. Gordon was serving as the minister of St. Steven's Church in Winnipeg, that his first novel was published. Black Rock was the first of approximately 30 novels which catapulted Charles W. Gordon to international fame as a literary figure. Many of his novels, written under the name of Ralph Connor, drew heavily from his colorful life as a frontier missionary.

Charles W. Gordon went on to win acclaim in a number of fields of activity. As a frontline chaplain during World War I, as a diplomatic emissary representing the Allied Cause to the United States, as a labor mediator, as a champion of women's rights and as an active proponent of the United Church of Canada and the League of Nations, Charles W. Gordon worked tirelessly for the unification of his fellow man.

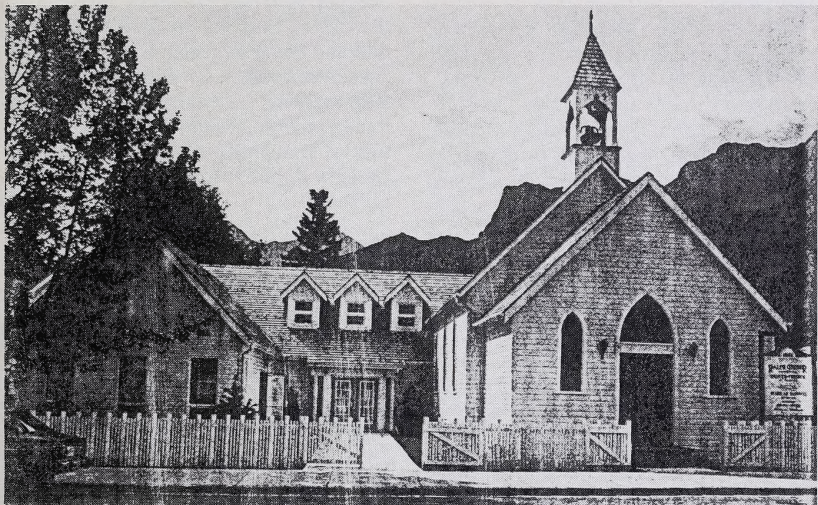
However, his greatest love was always the Church, which he served to his dying day, and his writing which kept him ever in the public eye. On October 31, 1937, Charles Gordon died, but through the writings of Ralph Connor and the church he established in Canmore, his spirit lives on.

The church was officially named Ralph Connor Memorial United Church on May 11, 1942, and the Canmore congregation continues to work on preserving it and Ralph Connor's memory.

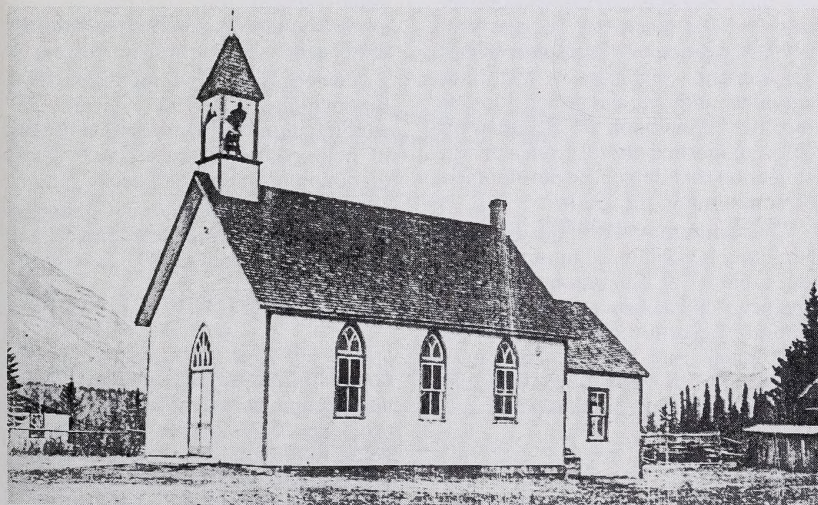
In 1977, the congregation made its first submission to Alberta Culture to have the sanctuary named a Historic Site. Since that time a flurry of negotiating and building has taken place, culminating in a refurbished church.

On September 24, 1984, both the old and new buildings were dedicated in the memory of Canmore's first minister.

Remembers First Minister



The Ralph Connor Memorial United Church, June, 1984, after restoration and additions. (photo: Mary M. Smith, Canmore)



Canmore's Presbyterian Church before 1925. (photo: Archives of the Canadian Rockies)

Heritage directories published

Edmonton:

The Edmonton Heritage Network is a loose federation of Edmonton's heritage related agencies, organizations and clubs, both government and private. The Network was formed to provide a chance for the various organizations to meet; discuss their individual and mutual goals and concerns; and to become more aware of each others' objectives.

Representatives from each of the organizations meet informally several times a year to discuss any matters they feel are important and to learn more about each of the various member associations and their functions. For the first time, all organizations interested in preserving the past in Edmonton have a unified voice in matters pertaining to the protection of the city's heritage.

One of the Network members, the Wild Rose Antique & Bottle Collectors, funded and co-ordinated the publishing of a directory of all the Network organizations. The result is a 68-page book with information on 42 collector groups, government agencies, historians, museums, archives, and preservationists. Included in the book are eleven never-before-published photos from a private collection that depict the development of Edmonton in the 1920's.

The Edmonton Heritage Network Directory is available at most museums and archives in Edmonton. If you are unable to find a copy, write: Wild Rose Antique & Bottle Collectors; P.O. Box 1471 Main Post Office; Edmonton, Alberta; T5J 2N5. Enclose \$1.00 to cover the cost of postage and handling.

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Calgary:

The Calgary Heritage Network Directory, listing 33 related organizations, was published through a grant from the

Calgary Heritage Advisory Board and the City of Calgary. Because of popular demand the supply has already run out. A second edition is scheduled for early 1986 and readers will be informed when it is available. Meanwhile copies are available for use at the Foundation, Calgary Public Library or the Glenbow Library.

Passenger and Immigration Lists

Genealogy researchers have three more invaluable tools available to them, all edited by P. William Filby.

"Passenger and Immigration Lists Index;" three volumes listing details about nearly 500,000 immigrants. \$390 for the set.

"Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: Supplements;" indexes thousands of additional names appearing in published passenger lists. They cover arrivals to North America for four centuries. \$120 each.

"Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography, 1538 - 1900." About 1,200 annotated entries add essential details to help complete researchers' immigration information. \$90 each.

Contact Gale Research Company; Book Tower; Detroit; MI 48226; (313) 961-2242 or call toll free 800-223-GALE.

"Barns of Western Canada"

This 144-page, hard cover heritage book is brimming with photos of past and present barns in the four western provinces. The majority of these are in color. Retail price \$26.95 plus \$3.50 for postage and handling. Discounts for bookstores. Braemer Books Ltd.; Box 4142, Station A; Victoria, B.C.; V8X 3X4; (604) 382-2665.

Alliance Museum Opens

The sun shone on May 1st as Alliance Mayor Smith-McLennan cut the ribbons, officially opening the Alliance Museum.

The possibility of a museum in Alliance was only an idea until late 1983. Then, when the former St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church was donated by the parish for the purpose of a museum, the idea became a reality.

Support for the project came from the Alliance Legion, a Provincial Cultural Grant, and a grant from the federal programme, New Horizons.

The Alliance Museum, a member of the Alberta Museum Association, is operated by the Alliance Legion, along with local senior citizens and many willing volunteers devoted to preserving the way of life of Alliance's pioneer settlers.

Veterans Honored

Three Alliance ex-servicemen were presented with Diamond Jubilee Awards at the Alliance museum-opening cere-

mony. Alliance honored Pete McPherson, Harry Turner, and Herb Schofield who all served in World War I. Mr. McPherson and Mr. Schofield also served on the homefront in World War II.



St. Agnes Catholic Church was donated by the parish to become the Alliance Museum.

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Membership Application Form

Name _____

Address _____

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Telephone _____

Gift Membership For:

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

1985 Membership Fee \$5.00

Donation _____

Gift M/Ship _____

Total _____

Please make cheques to Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

102 - 8th Ave. S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2G 0K6



Parks Canada Parcs Canada

HERITAGE NOTES

NATIONAL PARKS

ELK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK



Established in 1913 to protect the Beaver Hills' dwindling elk herds and other wildlife, Elk Island National Park today preserves a gentle wilderness oasis amid the developing landscape of man. Surrounded by grainfields, towns and pastures, this natural island of forests, meadows, lakes and ponds supports flourishing herds of free-roaming plains bison and rare wood bison, fortunate heirs to Elk Island's conservation legacy.



For information write: Parks Canada, Western Region,
P.O. Box 2989, Station M,
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3H8

Canada